



**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
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Corps employees receive recognition at awards ceremony

Walla Walla, Wash., -- Lt. Col. William E. Bulen, Jr., commander of the Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, presented several awards to the civilian staff on Friday, June 23.

The District staff is responsible for the development of federal water resources in a 107,000-square-mile region. The District's boundaries generally follow the Snake River drainage in six states -- Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming. The Walla Walla District is one of five in the Corps' Northwestern Division, co-located in Portland, Oregon and Omaha, Nebraska.

The 600-member District staff is active in the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of water resources projects for flood control, navigation and other purposes. The District also provides environmental restoration support at the Bunker Hill Smelter Superfund Site near Kellogg, Idaho.

Gary F. Willard, retired chief of Construction Division, was selected to join the Walla Walla District's Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees.

Willard started with the Walla Walla District in 1962 as an engineer in training after graduating from the University of Idaho. He was selected as the permanent chief of the Construction Division in 1990. He retired in April 1997 with 35 years of exemplary federal service.

Willard distinguished himself during his long career by the relationships he developed with the construction industry. While he established a reputation for demanding strict compliance with contract provisions, he was also highly respected for his integrity, fairness and

consistency in his dealings with contractors. During the last 10 years of his career, he became a pioneer in partnering in construction contracts.

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CORPS EMPLOYEES/2-2-2

Receiving commander's awards for civilian service were: James R. Baker, Richard Fink, John L. McKern, Donna Street and Mark S. Summers.

Baker, an attorney, was recognized for his representation of the Walla Walla District in sensitive legal issues.

Fink, a civil engineer, was recognized for his management of the Bunker Hill Resident Office as a project and resident engineer.

McKern, a fishery biologist, was recognized for his contributions to the Corps' salmon recovery program. McKern is a publicly recognized expert in both anadromous and resident fisheries.

Street, a civil engineer, was recognized for her management of several major construction contracts in the Walla Walla District, including serving as manager of the Bunker Hill Resident Office.

Summers, a structural engineer, was officially commended for his work in the Corps' Northwestern Division Seismic Design Center. As a result of past earthquakes, the Corps is responsible for applying new state of the art guidelines to military and civil works structures in the Northwestern Division, which covers most of the United States from the Missouri River Basin through the Pacific Northwest.

Ann S. Slead and Roger P. Hays of the Walla Walla District's McNary Lock and Dam were recognized with an outstanding achievement award.

Slead, a maintenance technician, was recognized for her impressive record of success in meeting organizational goals and her ability to plan, organize execute tasks.

Hays, an electrical maintenance crewmember, was recognized for his technical expertise in developing a control system that is critical to maintaining the generation of electricity at the dam.

Equal Employment Opportunity awards went to Bert Kinman, a mechanical engineering technician and Doug Frei, chief of the Engineering Division Design Branch. Kinman was selected as the EEO Employee of the Year and Frei was selected as the EEO Supervisor of the Year.

Graduates of the District's leadership development program were also recognized at the award ceremony. Participants in the program include: Gerald Sauve, Charles Craddock, Marlene Freels, Tony SiJohn, and Bruce Borgelt of Operations Division; Wenda Maestretti and Charlene Duncan, Contracting Division; George Hardin, Planning Branch; Sharon White, Programs and Project Management Division; Kelly Cowden, Construction Division; Scott Baird, Resource Management Office; and Sean Milligan, Engineering Division.

-30-